17-1 (Rev 8-11-03)

ATTENTION

The following documents appearing in FBI files have been reviewed under the provisions of The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552), Privacy Act of 1974 (PA) (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552a), and/or Litigation

☐ FOIA/PA ☐ Litigation ☐ Executive Order Applied

Requester ______
Subject ______
Computer or Case Identification Number ______
Title of Case ______ Section ______
* File ______
Serials Reviewed ______

Release Location *File ______ Section ______

This file section has been scanned into the FOIPA Document Processing System (FDPS) prior to National Security Classification review Please see the documents located in the FDPS for current classification action, if warranted Direct inquires about the FDPS to RIDS Service Request Unit, 202-324-3773

File Number 245D-NO-7 (NO) Section 15
Serial(s) Reviewed ALL

FOIPA Requester ______
FOIPA Subject ______
FOIPA Computer Number #984989

File Number ______ Section ______
Serial(s) Reviewed ______

FOIPA Requester ______
FOIPA Subject ______
FOIPA Computer Number ______

File Number ______ Section ______
Serial(s) Reviewed ______

FOIPA Requester ______
FOIPA Subject ______
FOIPA Computer Number ______

THIS FORM IS TO BE MAINTAINED AS THE TOP SERIAL OF THE FILE, BUT NOT SERIALIZED.

ATTENTION

DO NOT REMOVE FROM FILE

FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

2

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) A-1, A-13
"MORNING ADVOCATE"
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Date 5/15/87
Edition

Title MIGUEL VELEZ, aka ET AL: ADLER B. SEAL-VICTIM

Character or Classification OCDE TASK FORCE INV. 245B-7

Submitting Office New Orleans

Trial

CONTINUED FROM 1A

cases

In her closing statement Wednesday, Burns urged jurors to consider the message drug traffickers of Colombia's Medellin cocaine cartel were sending with Seal's murder

"This was used to teach a lesson, gangland style," she said brandishing a machine gun used in the murder "Back in the 1920's, people would machine-gun informants to death in the streets They knew it would be a deterrent to people who might turn against this cartel in the future

"With a machine gun, they were the jury, the judge and the executioner and they did it for a few thousand dollars," Burns said about the defendants "Cold, hard cash."

State prosecutors had asked the jury to consider the contract on Seal's life as one of the aggravating factors warranting the death penalty for Vasquez, Velez and Quintero-Cruz

Defense attorneys argued Wednesday that life in prison was a more lasting deterrent

"Each day, his life is a deterrent, he becomes painfully aware of why he is being punished," Walker said about inmates serving life sentences

"When there is an execution at the prison, it's a deterrent, but it doesn't last very long," Walker said "How many of you remember the name of the last person to die in the electric chair?"

Walker reminded the jury that Vasquez had no criminal history and said his character "is beyond reproach as compared to the character of the victim in this case "

Attorney Robert Moore, who represents Quintero-Cruz, reminded the jurors that they were allowed unlimited mercy under the law and were not bound to return the death penalty under any circumstances

He invited the jury to take a photograph of Quintero-Cruz's wife and three children living in Colombia into their deliberations.

"It's the only thing he has in this world now that makes life worth living," Moore said about the alleged trigger man

"It's important for that baby boy to grow up knowing he has a father," Moore said, pointing to the photo "It's important for that little girl to know her father is alive, somewhere "

Seal, Moore said, was no "innocent victim" as a child or elderly person who becomes the victim of first-degree murder

Attorney Richard Sharpstein, who represents Velez, urged the jury to "forgive him his trespasses" as the alleged driver of a getaway car in Seal's murder

"Lock him up, throw away the key, but don't kill him," Sharpstein said. "This is not a case that cries out for the violent vengeance of death in the electric chair "

Thursday's final session was delayed by private conferences between attorneys and Quienalty over a defense motion that the judge sealed from public access.

Quienalty also refused requests from reporters covering the trial concerning the minutes of bench conferences on the motion held in open court.

Attorney Anthony Marabella, who represents Quintero-Cruz, said Quienalty barred attorneys from discussing the motion publicly over their objections

"A motion will be filed in the next couple of days that will explain what has been sealed," he said.

On the outer steps of the Lake Charles federal building housing the trial, Sharpstein said all three defendants plan to appeal their first-degree murder convictions

"We still feel we have a very strong case on the guilt phase," he said. "Our clients are relieved that they won't be sitting on death row while we're appealing "

Quienalty said Velez, Vasquez and Quintero-Cruz will be sentenced at 1:30 p m. May 21 in state District Court here

Seal died in a hail of machine-gun fire as he exited his Cadillac in the parking lot of the Salvation Army Community Treatment Center in Baton Rouge on the evening of Feb. 19, 1986

He had been serving a six-month probation sentence at a federal halfway house there on drug charges

A January trial on Seal's murder was ordered transferred from Baton Rouge to Calcasieu Parish by District Judge Frank Saia, who found it impossible to seat an impartial jury in Baton Rouge

The trial here was first assigned to the Sulphur Judicial Center — a converted Catholic Church.

It was reassigned to a courtroom in the federal building here for security reasons

FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

1

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) A-1, A-5
"MORNING ADVOCATE"
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Date 1/12/87
Edition Morning

Title MIGUEL VELEZ, aka ET AL; ADLER B. SEAL-VICTIM

Character or Classification OCDE TASK FORCE 245B-7
Submitting Office New Orleans

Jury selection begins in trial of 3 accused in Seal slaying

By JOHN SEMIEN
Advocate staff writer

On Monday, Colombians Miguel Velez, Bernardo Antonio Vasquez and Carlos Quintero-Cruz will begin searching for a jury of their peers in the hometown of the federal witness they are accused of murdering

They'll have the counsel of seven defense attorneys in sifting through a jury pool estimated at 800 Assistant District Attorney Prem Burns will represent the state

District Judge Frank Saia will preside over the case, which has become complicated and far-reaching in 10 months of state and federal investigations and pretrial hearings

In comparison, the machine-gun slaying of Adler "Barry" Seal was brutally simple

Seal was shot to death in a parked Cadillac he had been driving to and from a halfway house operated by the Salvation Army Community Treatment Center on Airline Highway

Witnesses at pretrial hearings have said there were two men waiting in the center's parking lot when Seal reported to a federal halfway house at the center to spend the night on the evening of Feb 19, 1986

They have described one man approaching the driver's side of Seal's car, opening fire with a Mac 10 machine gun and then hopping into a getaway car driven by a second man

In seconds, Seal was hit by a barrage of .45-caliber bullets at close range and died at the scene, according to police

SEE TRIAL, 4A

Trial

CONTINUED FROM 1A

reports

In the next 48 hours, FBI agents arrested six suspects in Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida and confiscated evidence that included four getaway cars

State prosecutors have called the murder a contract killing ordered by angry Colombian cocaine traffickers who had already placed a $500,000 contract on Seal's life

Seal's checkered career as a drug smuggler and DEA informant figure prominently in the alleged murder plot, which prosecutors say involve the top cocaine traffickers in the world

Velez, Quintero-Cruz, Vasquez and Colombian Jose Renteria-Campo were eventually indicted with conspiracy and first-degree murder charges in an investigation launched by District Attorney Bryan Bush

But local attorney Michele Fournet and Mike Small of Alexandria won a separate trial for Renteria-Campo, who allegedly helped set up Seal's murder

They will be interested spectators in Monday's proceedings

The two attorneys have argued strenuously in pretrial hearings against elaborate security precautions that have included armed guards, searching of courtroom visitors and a transparent bullet-proof shield

Saia last week said security at the trial would be "less intense" as officials dismantled the shield and implemented more subtle security measures

Fournet, who served two stints with the Public Defender's Office, said last week that the heavy security is unprecedented in district court here

"The kind of security that has existed in this case is unprecedented in Baton Rouge, as far as I know," she said "There was never any evidence introduced to justify the security In fact, the four individuals on trial have strenuous objections to it "

Fournet and other attorneys interviewed by the Morning Advocate would not comment on details of the case because of a gag order imposed late last year by Saia

But some estimated the trial could take from three weeks to a month, if all 120 prospective witnesses in the case are called

"I think three and a half to four weeks, assuming we're able to pick a jury," local attorney Jack Dampf said last week

Dampf is co-counsel for Velez, the alleged driver of the getaway car

Dampf's partner in Velez's defense is Richard Sharpstein of Coconut Grove, Fla

Sharpstein, a former state attorney in Miami, said last week he is optimistic about selecting an impartial jury, despite pretrial publicity that prompted several attorneys to ask for a change of venue

"I do know there's been massive publicity but I'd certainly like to think we could seat 12 fair people from a community like Baton Rouge," he said "I was concerned at first, but since the judge has ruled, I'm willing to try "

245B-7-1129

#8 Rotar

FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) A-1, A-5
"MORNING ADVOCATE"
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Date 1/27/87
Edition Morning

Title MIGUEL VELEZ, aka ET AL; ADLER B. SEAL - VICTIM

Character or Classification OCDE TASK FORCE 245B-7
Submitting Office New Orleans

Other Florida-based attorneys in the case include Robert Moore and Samuel Rabin, Miami lawyers defending Quintero-Cruz

Moore, who last week said he specializes in criminal law, described the Seal case as "a very complicated case"

"What it boils down to, as far as my client is concerned, is who did it," Moore said

Trial profile



District Judge Frank Saia
Will preside over the case



Prem Burns
Assistant District Attorney, prosecutor

State prosecutors have called Quintero-Cruz the "shooter" with the machine gun in Seal's murder

Moore said he also was concerned about possible bias against the nationality of the suspects

"Another big problem we have is that they are Colombian," Moore said "We just hope this jury will be able to give these people a fair trial"

Moore and Rabin are being aided by Baton Rouge attorney Anthony Marabella, whose career in criminal law includes three years as an assistant district attorney and two years with the Public Defender's Office

Marabella said last week the ramifications of the Seal case make it unique among murder cases he has tried

"Because of the ramifications, who Barry Seal was and was alleged to be, certainly makes this case unique," Marabella said "I've been practicing law for 13 years and I've never seen a case with so many different types of collateral issues that could affect jury selection"

Vasquez, who is also accused of helping other suspects set up the hit on Seal, is being represented by Jefferson Parish attorneys Sam Dalton and Wayne Williams

After being rejected once, the attorneys last week filed a motion asking Saia to try Vasquez separately from the other suspects, a matter expected to be decided by Saia at trial

Saia said on Friday he expected the trial to last about three weeks, allowing a week each for jury selection and the presentation of cases by the state and defense attorneys

Saia said he did not expect a lengthy trial and described Monday's opening proceedings as "no different from any first-degree murder trial where three people are on trial"

FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) A-1, A-5
"MORNING ADVOCATE"
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

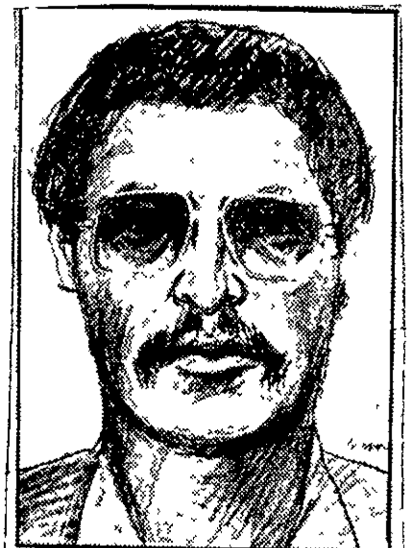
Date 1/12/87
Edition Morning

Title MIGUEL VELEZ, aka ET AL; ADLER B. SEAL-VICTIM

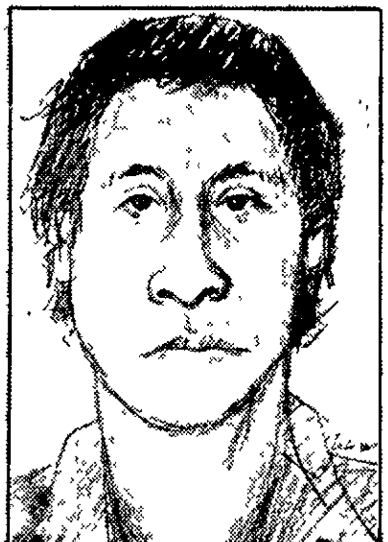
Character or Classification OCDE TASK FORCE 245B-7

Submitting Office New Orleans

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



Bernardo Antonio Vasquez
Defendant



Carlos Quintero-Cruz
Defendant



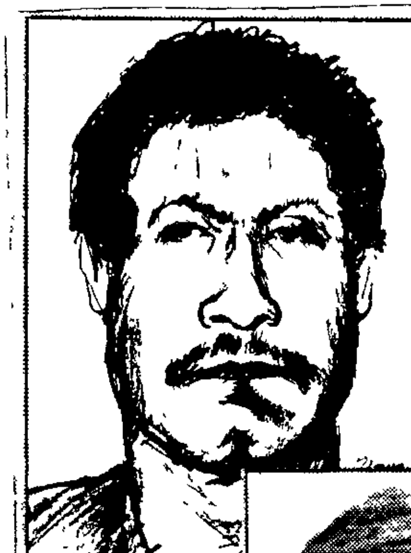
Sam Dalton
Jefferson Parish attorney, representing Vasquez

Wayne Williams
Jefferson Parish attorney, defending Vasquez



Anthony Marabella
Baton Rouge attorney, co-counsel for Quintero-Cruz

Robert Moore, Sam Rabin
Miami lawyers defending Quintero-Cruz



Miguel Velez
Defendant



Jack Dampf
Baton Rouge attorney, co-counsel for Velez

Richard Sharpstein
Florida attorney, co-counsel for Velez

AO 91
Rev 11/82

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

United States District Court	DISTRICT MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA V MIGUEL VELEZ	DOCKET NO. MAGISTRATE'S CASE NO.

Complaint for violation of Title 18 United States Code § 371, 1513 and 2

NAME OF JUDGE OR MAGISTRATE	OFFICIAL TITLE	LOCATION
Honorable John V. Parker	U.S. Judge	707 Florida Blvd. Baton Rouge, La.

DATE OF OFFENSE	PLACE OF OFFENSE	ADDRESS OF ACCUSED (if known)
19 Feb 1986	Baton Rouge, LA	Meridian, Mississippi

COMPLAINANT'S STATEMENT OF FACTS CONSTITUTING THE OFFENSE OR VIOLATION

SEE ATTACHED STATEMENT OF FACTS

b7C

CLERK'S OFFICE
A TRUE COPY
[redacted]
Deputy Clerk, U. S District Court
Middle District of Louisiana
Baton Rouge, La

BASIS OF COMPLAINANTS CHARGE AGAINST THE ACCUSED On or about February 19, 1986, Miguel Velez, and other persons known and unknown conspired together to commit an offense against the United States, namely retaliating against a witness, by engaging in conduct and thereby causing bodily injury and death to Adler B. Seal, in retaliation for any information given and to be given relating to the commission of Federal offenses charged in United States of America v. Pablo Escobar Gaviria, et al in the Southern District of Florida.

b7C

245B-7-1138

MA[redacted]ATION TO THIS
SA [redacted], SA [redacted] FBI, SA [redacted], FBI
Deputy [redacted] EBRSO

Being duly sworn, I declare that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge

[redacted]

OFFICIAL TITLE
Special Agent, FBI

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence,

SIGNATURE OF MAGISTRATE(1)	DATE
John V. Parker U.S. District Judge	February 20, 1986

1) See Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure rules 3 and 54

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On February 19, 1986 at approximately 6:00 p.m., Adler B. Seal was shot to death at Baton Rouge, Louisiana by two unknown assailants. One assailant was described by two witnesses at the murder scene as follows:

A white male, Latin in appearance, approximately 6'0" to 6'1" in height, wearing a light brown long sleeved shirt and light blue "baggy" trousers, with dark short slightly wavy hair, and weighing 180-195 pounds. This person was described by one witness as having slight mustache.

Adler B. Seal was known to be a potential witness in a criminal action in the Southern District of Florida, Miami, Florida, United States of America v. Pablo Escobar Gaviria, et al. At approximatley 6:00 p.m. on February 19, 1986, East Baton Rouge Parish Deputy Sheriff [redacted] observed two unknown individuals exit a late model Buick automobile, approximately one-quarter mile from the murder scene, and enter a late model red General Motors 4-door automobile, and speed from the scene. b7C Examination of the abandoned vehicle disclosed two automatic weapons. The car which sped away had no license plates but appeared to have a new car price sticker atached to a rear window.

At approximately 8:45 p.m. on February 19, 1986, FBI Special Agents [redacted] observed one Miguel Velez approach the Eastern Airline ticket counter at New Orleans International Airport and inquire about flights to Miami.

Velez was told no flights were available and inquired about flights to Orlando, Florida. Velez was questioned by the above-named FBI agents and displayed an Easter Airline round trip ticket which showed his arrival in New Orleans on February 16, 1986, with return to Miami on February 28, 1986. Velez appeared extremely nervous, hesitant in his speech and was perspiring. Velez stated he was in New Orleans on vacation but disclaimed knowledge of persons in New Orleans. He stated he needed to return to Miami due to family problems. Velez claimed to reside in Miami, did not have a home telephone, but had a "beeper" device rented from a Miami company. Velez was described as approximately 6'0" in height, Latin in appearance, dark curly short hair, a slight mustache, born 6/7/49 at Puerto Rico. He had a U.S. Passport with date indicating prior travel to Columbia, S.A. Velez was wearing a white shirt, white shoes, with aqua colored "baggy" trousers.

The above special agents then determined that Velez went to his room in the Hilton Hotel, Airline Highway, New Orleans, and departed without checking out for Montgomery, Alabama, via taxi, at approximately 9:15 p.m.

Early in the morning on February 20, 1986 at Meridian, Mississippi, Lt. [redacted] Meridian Police Department was b7C investigating an accident involving a Louisiana taxi that had struck an animal. The passenger in the vehicle was one Miguel Velez. Velez had in his possession an Avis Car Rental key ring with automobile keys listing the automobile as a four-door Cadillac Deville, Avis number 8055.

On February 20, 1986 a representative of Avis Car Rental, New Orleans, advised that their rental car 8055 is a 1986, four-door red Cadillac Deville, temporary Louisiana License T0362076, rented on February 18, 1986 to [redacted] Florida. Investigation at New Orleans determined that [redacted] was reggistered in the Hilton Hotel in Room 270, while Velez was registered in Room 269.

b7C

AO 442 (Rev 5 85) Warrant for Arrest

United States District Court

MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
V
MIGUEL VELEZ

WARRANT FOR ARREST

CASE NUMBER

To: The United States Marshal
and any Authorized United States Officer

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to arrest MIGUEL VELEZ
Name

and bring him or her forthwith to the nearest magistrate to answer a(n)

☐ Indictment ☐ Information ☒ Complaint ☐ Order of court ☐ Violation Notice ☐ Probation Violation Petition

charging him or her with (brief description of offense)

18:USC 371, 1513 & 2
Retaliation of a witness for information given relating to the commission of Federal offenses in the Southern District of Florida

in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section(s) 371, 1513 & 2

John V. Parker
Name of Issuing Officer

U.S. District Judge
Title of Issuing Officer

John V Parker
Signature of Issuing Officer

February 20, 1986 Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Date and Location

(By) Deputy Clerk

Bail fixed at $ ____ by ____
Name of Judicial Officer

RETURN		
This warrant was received and executed with the arrest of the above-named defendant at		
DATE RECEIVED	NAME AND TITLE OF ARRESTING OFFICER	SIGNATURE OF ARRESTING OFFICER
DATE OF ARREST		

Nineteenth Judicial District
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

BRYAN BUSH
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

222 ST LOUIS STREET
TELEPHONE (504) 389-3400

February 23, 1987

Mr. Ed Grimsley
Special Agent In Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
One American Place
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

Re: State of Louisiana versus Miguel Velez, et al

Dear Ed:

As you are aware, trial of the above referred first degree murder prosecution has been reassigned for April 6, 1987 in Lake Charles, Louisiana. It is our current expectation that selection of the jury in Lake Charles should take some seven working days. Accordingly, trial should commence on or about April 15.

In view of the interest of the Federal government toward a successful conclusion of this trial as well as the need to coordinate the large number of federal agents who will be called to testify, this office is requesting that Special Agent [redacted] b7C [redacted] be permitted to remain in Lake Charles with the state prosecution team for the duration of the trial once a jury is impaneled. Thanking you for the cooperation of the Bureau thus far, I remain,

Sincerely,

[redacted]
Chief Prosecutor
Criminal Section III

b7C

PB/kt

[redacted]

[redacted]

215B-7-1138

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev 6-9-82)

Date 2/20/86

Title and Character of Case
UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
MIGUEL VELEZ;
[redacted]
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE
OO: NEW ORLEANS

b7C

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
2/20/86	MIGUEL VELEZ

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
Baton Rouge RA	EVIDENCE

To Be Returned	See Serial	Agent Submitting Property or Exhibit	Agent Assigned Case
☐ Yes ☒ No		SA [redacted]	SA [redacted] SA [redacted]

☐ Yes ☒ No Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Description of Property or Exhibit

One Eastern Airlines Ticket #0074472098186

One Columbian Peso (Bill)

One Amitron Watch Black Band

One Gold Necklace with cross pendant

One cloth cord Madonna necklace

Inventoried ~~Retain~~ 9/25/86
By ~~[initials]~~

b7C

Inventoried
By

For Valuable and/or Narcotics Evidence Only

Evidence Bag Seal # 009993

Signature of Two Special Agents Verifying and Sealing Bag Contents SA [redacted]

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

245 D-7-1B-755

Inventoried Retain 4/3/86
By

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
MAR
FBI - NEW ORLEANS

BLOCK STAMP

FEB 1986
FBI

72-50
Field File # Jackson ~~76-52~~-182

OO NEW ORLEANS

Index ~~INVENTORY~~ COPY (optional)

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev 6-9-82)

Date 2/20/86

Title and Character of Case

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
MIGUEL VELEZ;
[redacted] b7C

OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE OO: NEW ORLEANS

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
2/20/86	MIGUEL VELEZ b7C

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
Baton Rouge RA	EVIDENCE

To Be Returned	See Serial	Agent Submitting Property or Exhibit	Agent Assigned Case
☐ Yes ☒ No		SA [redacted]	SA [redacted] SA [redacted]

☐ Yes ☒ No Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

Description of Property or Exhibit

$3,275.41 in U. S. Currency

Retain
Inventoried 9/25/86
By

Inventoried
By

b7C

For Valuable and/or Narcotics Evidence Only

Evidence Bag Seal # 009978

Signature of Two Special Agents Verifying and Sealing Bag Contents [redacted]

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

Retain
Inventoried 4/3/86
By

245D-7-1B756

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
MAR
FBI - NEW ORLEANS

BLOCK STAMP
FEB 1986
FBI

Field File # Jackson ~~70-52~~ 72-50-1B1

OO NEW ORLEANS

[redacted] COPY (optional)

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev 6-9-82)

Date
2/20/86

Title and Character of Case
UNSUB;
MIGUEL VELEZ;
[redacted]
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE
OO: NEW ORLEANS

b7C

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
2/20/86	MIGUEL VELEZ

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
Baton Rouge RA	EVIDENCE

To Be Returned	See Serial	Agent Submitting Property or Exhibit	Agent Assigned Case
☐ Yes ☒ No		SA [redacted]	SA [redacted] SA [redacted]

☐ Yes ☒ No Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

Description of Property or Exhibit

One (1) XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Atomic Absorption Analysis Kit Used to Process MIGUEL VELEZ.

Retain
Inventoried 9/25/81
By

Inventoried
By

For Valuable and/or Narcotics Evidence Only

Evidence Bag Seal # ____________

Signature of Two Special Agents Verifying and Sealing Bag Contents

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

Retain
Inventoried 4/3/86
By

245D-7-1B757

SEARCHED ____ INDEXED ____
SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____
MAR
FBI - NEW ORLEANS

BLOCK STAMP
SEARCHED ____ INDEXED ____
SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____
FEB 20 1986
FBI — JACKSON

Field File # JACKSON ~~79-~~ 22-50 ~~-~~ -185

OO NEW ORLEANS

Index
[redacted] COPY (optional)

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev 6-9-82)

Date 2/20/86

Title and Character of Case

UNSUB;
MIGUEL VELEZ;
[redacted]
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE
OO: NEW ORLEANS

b7C

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
2/20/86	MIGUEL VELEZ

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
Baton Rouge RA	EVIDENCE

To Be Returned	See Serial	Agent Submitting Property or Exhibit	Agent Assigned Case SA [redacted]
☐ Yes ☒ No		SA [redacted]	SA [redacted]

☐ Yes ☒ No Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

Description of Property or Exhibit

Two (2) Sets of Major Case Prints of MIGUEL VELEZ

Retain
Inventoried 9/26/86
By [initials]

Inventoried
By

For Valuable and/or Narcotics Evidence Only

Evidence Bag Seal # ______

Signature of Two Special Agents Verifying and Sealing Bag Contents ______

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

Retain
Inventoried 4/3/86
By [initials]

Field File # JACKSON 72-50-1B4

OO NEW ORLEANS

Indexed

[redacted] COPY (optional)

245D-7-1B758

SEARCHED ___ INDEXED ___
SERIALIZED ___ FILED ___
MAR
FBI — NEW ORLEANS

BLOCK STAMP

SEARCHED ___ INDEXED ___
SERIALIZED ___ FILED ___
FEB 20 1986
FBI — JACKSON

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev 6-9-82)

Date
2/20/86

Title and Character of Case

UNSUB;
MIGUEL VELEZ;
[redacted]
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE
OO: NEW ORLEANS

b7C

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
2/20/86	MIGUEL VELEZ

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
Baton Rouge RA	EVIDENCE

To Be Returned	See Serial	Agent Submitting Property or Exhibit	Agent Assigned Case
☐ Yes ☒ No		SA [redacted]	SA [redacted] SA [redacted]

☐ Yes ☒ No Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

Description of Property or Exhibit

One Set of Car Keys on An Avis Rental Tag
One Key on a Tag #269
One Florida Driver's License #V420-540-49-247
Social Security Card #071-80-2491
One Red Address Book
One U. S. Passport #Z5286996
Twenty-one Business Cards (Various)
One Mechanic's Wrench
One Laminated Prayer Card
One Gray Jacket
One Pair Shoes (White)
One Green Two-piece Outfit

(One set of Photocopies of
(Passport, Driver's License,
(Social Security Card,
(Business Cards, etc.,
(including a large quantity
(of money which was in
(possession of Meridian Police
(Department subsequent to the
(Arrest of MIGUEL VELEZ
(26 Total pages).

One Mastercard Application
One Leather Pouch (2"x3")
One Shoestring
One piece of Gold Colored Metal Wife

For Valuable and/or Narcotics Evidence Only

Evidence Bag Seal # ____________

Signature of Two Special Agents Verifying and Sealing Bag Contents

Inventoried 9/25/86
By

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Retd Inventoried 4/3/86
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245D-7-1B-159

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FEB 20 1986
FBI - JACKSON

Field File # Jackson 72-50
Inventoried
By
OO NEW ORLEANS
Index

FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
PAGE B-7
"TIMES-PICAYUNE/STATES-ITEM"
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Date 4/6/87
Edition MORNING

Title [redacted] AKA; ADLER BERRIMAN SEAL; DRUG INVESTIGATIVE TASK FORCE

Character or Classification OCDE TASK FORCE - INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING NO 245D-7
Submitting Office NEW ORLEANS

b7C

Jury selection to start in Seal murder trial

By The Associated Press

LAKE CHARLES — Jury selection will begin Monday in a coliseum instead of a courtroom for three Colombians accused of the machine-gun slaying of a drug runner who turned into a federal informant

Prosecutors said Miguel Velez, Luis Carlos Quintero-Cruz and Bernardo Antonio Vasquez were after a $500,000 bounty offered by a powerful drug cartel to kill Adler "Barry" Seal, a 300-pound former pilot for TWA

Seal was machine-gunned Feb 19, 1986, in the parking lot of a Baton Rouge halfway house where he was serving a six-month term on drug and related charges

The trial was moved to Lake Charles after a Baton Rouge judge declared a mistrial, saying publicity made it impossible to get a jury

More than 400 prospective jurors have been summoned, so many that selection is set to begin in Burton Coliseum, an arena on the southern edge of the city used for rodeos and livestock shows

Once the jury is chosen, District Judge Charlie Quienalty will move the trial downtown to U S District Court, which offers more security than the state courthouse

Seal had spurned efforts to place him in a federal protection program, and he predicted that he would be killed

He flew cocaine shipments from Colombia from 1981 to 1983, when he was caught by federal Drug Enforcement Agency agents and turned informant

He was to have been a star witness in a south Florida drug trial involving reputed leaders of Colombia's Medellin cartel, which federal agents say is the world's largest criminal organization

The cartel supplies about 80 percent of the cocaine used in the United States, agents say

"Security will be heavy for the trial," Calcasieu Parish Sheriff Wayne McElveen said At least 30 officers will be assigned to the courthouse area, he said

The security precautions follow threats on prosecutors' lives in the Florida case

However, Mark Neuberger, court security specialist for the U S Marshal's Office in New Orleans, has said there is no connection between the two cases

"Our intelligence doesn't indicate any tie-in between the two," he said, adding that the three defendants in Lake Charles are "foot soldiers" for the cartel while the figures in south Florida are high-ranking cartel officials

A fourth defendant in the Seal murder case, Jose Renteria-Campo, will be tried separately

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FBI — NEW ORLEANS

FD-350 (Rev 5-8-81)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state)
PAGE A-1 & A-5
"TIMES-PICAYUNE/STATES-ITEM"
NEW ORLEANS, LA

Date 5/14/87
Edition MORNING

Title [redacted] AKA;
ADLER BARRIMAN SEAL

Character or Classification OCDE TASK FORCE - INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING
NO 245D-7
Submitting Office NEW ORLEANS

Indexing

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b7C

Three convicted of killing Seal

By MARK SCHLEIFSTEIN
Staff writer

LAKE CHARLES — Three Colombians were found guilty Wednesday of first-degree murder in the machine-gun death of federal drug informant Barry Seal, and jurors may decide Thursday whether the three should die in the electric chair

The three were convicted of carrying out a murder contract on Seal to keep him from testifying against one of the heads of an international cocaine-smuggling cartel based in Medellin, Colombia

The drug figure, Jorge Ochoa, was to be extradited from Spain to the United States to face drug charges based on information supplied by Seal. Instead, Ochoa was extradited to Colombia weeks after Seal's death and has since disappeared.

Ochoa's brother, Fabio Ochoa, and Pablo Escobar, another cartel figure whom Seal provided evidence against, had offered to pay $1 million for Seal's kidnapping and $500,000 for his murder, prosecutors contend.

Seal was shot to death as he was getting out of his car in the parking lot of a Salvation Army halfway house in Baton Rouge on Feb. 19, 1986

Wednesday's verdicts followed 13 days of testimony in a courtroom guarded by deputy sheriffs with machine guns and heavily armed deputy marshals concerned about reprisals from the cartel.

Bernardo Vasquez, Miguel

See SEAL, A-5

Orig Sent to FBIHQ 5/15/87.

245D-7-1167
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MAY 14 1987
FBI — NEW ORLEANS

Seal

From Page 1

Velez and Luis Carlos Quintero-Cruz stood quietly as a clerk read their verdicts

Velez turned ashen, staring at the jury.

Cruz, still wearing the headphones that allow an interpreter to repeat the verdict to him in Spanish, listened stone-faced.

Vasquez, sitting down while the jurors reconfirmed the verdict with individual polling cards, shifted his chin from one hand to another as he slumped in his chair, not looking at relatives behind him in the audience.

The jury of 10 women and two men took just over 5½ hours over two days to reach the verdict, and immediately began hearing evidence in the penalty phase of the case.

Under Louisiana's first-degree murder law, the jury also decides whether to sentence the defendants to death or to life in prison without parole

Testimony in the penalty phase will continue Thursday.

As testimony during the penalty phase began Wednesday, Baton Rouge Assistant District Attorney Prem Burns argued in favor of the death penalty, saying the defendants were paid to commit their crime and endangered others when shooting Seal and while speeding away from the scene. Both are extenuating circumstances, which in combination with a murder could justify the death sentence under state law.

Vasquez's mother asked the jury to spare his life.

Lucia Tamayo de Vasquez testified that her son wanted to study to be a priest, but his family was too poor to send him to college.

She asked the jury not to vote for the death penalty "because they're not going to kill him, they're going to kill the entire family."

"If they can only feel a little bit of what I feel, they will raise their eyes to the Lord and ask him to forgive him," she said through an interpreter.

As she left the courtroom, the elderly, stooped woman stared straight ahead, and not at her son, who sat weeping at the defense table

Defense attorneys also called witnesses who told the jury that there are mitigating circumstances that should sway them from sentencing the three to the electric chair

Sam Dalton, attorney for Vasquez, said his client had no prior record and was only involved in the murder as an accessory.

Dalton also called witnesses to show that Seal may have continued to smuggle drugs, even after becoming a federal informant. As a convicted drug smuggler, Dalton argued, Seal's life is not worth levying the death penalty.

State Police Lt. Robert Thomasson testified that he believed Seal was still smuggling drugs for his own gain, while working as an informant for the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

Defense attorneys vowed to appeal the guilty verdict to the Louisiana Supreme Court on grounds that testimony concerning the cartel had nothing to do with Seal's death, and illegally prejudiced the jury against their clients.

"They tried the Medellin cartel," said Velez's attorney Richard Sharpstein, during a break in the trial

He said Burns' closing argument added to the prejudice by attempting to inflame the jury.

"She talked about things that had nothing to do with Barry Seal," Sharpstein said. "She prejudiced, scared, frightened and intimidated that jury."

Sharpstein gave a dramatic and tearful opening statement at the beginning of the penalty phase, eliciting tears from one juror

Velez began wiping tears from his eyes with a handkerchief as Sharpstein urged the jury to ignore the biblical precept of an eye for and eye, and be merciful to Velez.

"If it's easy (to sentence Velez to the electric chair), if it's cold and you can do it .. do it," Sharpstein said, his voice breaking. "But it's final"

During the trial, Burns outlined an intricate plan that was capped with Cruz killing Seal with six bullets from a Mac-10 machine gun.

Velez drove the getaway car, a Buick that Vasquez had bought several days before. The car screached out of the parking lot and sped off to a youth center a few blocks away, where Velez and Cruz switched to a red Cadillac, also rented by Vasquez a few days before

It was then that things began to go awry for the killers Two sheriff's deputies were standing on the steps of the center, where they were working a security detail for a bingo game.

Apparently spooked, Velez and Cruz left the machine gun and an Uzi machine pistol in the Buick, along with three pairs of gloves and a key still in the trunk.

They drove off in the Cadillac, which was found at the New Orleans International Airport the next day.

The defendants' fingerprints were found in four cars used during planning and commission of the crime.

The murder trial was moved to Lake Charles after officials were unable to pick an unbiased jury in Baton Rouge because of press coverage of the murder.

FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) A-1, A-7
"MORNING ADVOCATE"
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Date 4/28/87
Edition Morning

Title MIGUEL VELEZ, aka:
ET AL; ADLER B. SEAL-
VICTIM
Character OCDE TASK FORCE INV.
or
Classification 245B-7
Submitting Office New Orleans

Opening arguments focus on Seal

By JOHN SEMIEN
Advocate staff writer

LAKE CHARLES — A solemn jury sat awestruck Monday as a state prosecutor and three defense attorneys described the flamboyant life of Adler "Barry" Seal in the first-degree murder trial of his alleged assassins

In opening arguments, Assistant District Attorney Prem Burns and defense attorneys for Miguel Velez, Bernardo Antonio Vasquez and Luis Carlos Quintero-Cruz described Seal as a man of many faces

While Burns called Seal the government's top witness against bosses of Colombia's Medellin cocaine cartel, defense attorneys said he was an opportunist who gambled on both sides of the law until he dealt his life away

For the first time Monday, Burns revealed details of the state's theory concerning the cocaine czars who allegedly wanted Seal silenced and their reputed henchmen who scrambled to collect a $500,000 contract on his life

Burns said evidence in the trial will show Seal was blasted with 12 .45-caliber rounds from a machine gun in the parking lot of the Salvation Army Community Treatment Center on Airline Highway on Feb 19, 1986

However, she said, details about the murder contract, which was accepted by at least two groups of assassins, indicate things could have turned out much worse

"The evidence will show that, if it was necessary, Barry Seal's whole family was to be killed, if that's what it took to do the job," Burns told the jury in opening arguments Monday

Burns later pointed first to Quintero-Cruz, then to Velez and finally Vasquez, labeling them as trigger man, driver of the getaway car and procurer of equipment in a murder-for-hire conspiracy

The conspiracy began when a DEA sting operation involving Seal resulted in the arrest of reputed Medellin cartel

SEE TRIAL, 7A

Trial

CONTINUED FROM 1A

leader Jorge Luis Ochoa-Vasquez in 1984 by officials in Spain, Burns said

Burns said Seal gave an affidavit attached to the extradition request for Ochoa-Vasquez, who was wanted on Florida drug indictments

"To support the request to extradite Ochoa back to Miami, Florida, Barry Seal had to swear out an extradition affidavit," Burns said "In November, 1984, when he signed Jorge Ochoa's extradition request, he became a man marked for death"

Burns said the subsequent contract, which would have paid $1 million if Seal were delivered alive, was pursued off and on for a year as stints in federal protective custody made access to Seal impossible

The contract was given first to American drug smuggler and cartel associate Max Mermelstein because the Colombians thought their own people would "stick out like a sore thumb in a small town like Baton Rouge," Burns said

"He'll tell you that had the bottom line come down to killing Barry Seal or being killed, he would have done the job," Burns said about Mermelstein, who is now a protected federal witness expected to testify in the case

Burns described Mermelstein as a high-level trafficker who had smuggled more than 130,000 pounds of cocaine into the United States as a cartel distributor before his arrest in 1985 persuaded him to become a federal witness

Mermelstein received about $100,000 from the cartel and made several trips to Louisiana in early 1985, before telling cartel leaders he could not make the hit on Seal, she said

When Spain decided to extradite Ochoa-Vasquez to the United States in early 1986, Burns alleged, Velez was given the contract

An enforcer for reputed Miami cartel underboss Rafael Cardona-Salazar, Velez had to travel to Medellin, Colombia, and receive the blessings of cartel leaders Pablo Escobar-Gaviria and Fabio Ochoa-Vasquez, brother of Jorge Ochoa-Vasquez, she said

Burns said the cartel bosses also ordered Colombian Luis Carlos Uribe-Munera to recruit two Colombian assassins to travel to the United States for the slaying

Uribe-Munera later refused to participate after learning the plan included his own murder, Burns said

Uribe-Munera fled Colombia after he was shot by cartel assassins in Medellin and left for dead, Burns said He became a federally protected witness, also expected to testify in the Seal trial, she said

Burns said that in early February 1986, Velez and Vasquez traveled from Miami to a meeting in New Orleans with Jose Renteria-Campo — another defendant in the case who was granted a separate trial

Quintero-Cruz traveled from Colombia through Central America before entering the United States illegally and meeting the three men in

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FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) A-1, A-7
"MORNING ADVOCATE"
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Date 4/28/87
Edition Morning

Title MIGUEL VELEZ, aka; ET AL; ADLER B. SEAL-VICTIM
Character or Classification OCDE TASK FORCE INV. 245B-7
Submitting Office New Orleans

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New Orleans, she said

After securing a safe house, several getaway cars and equipment, the four men allegedly carried out the final stages of the conspiracy ending in Seal's murder, she said

"Because of Barry Seal's murder in July 1986, the country of Spain decided not to send Jorge Ochoa back to the United States," Burns said "You learn that, to a degree, the efforts of the cartel put a halt to the system"

Ochoa-Vasquez was extradited to his native Colombia, where he has since disappeared after being released on bond, she said

After arguments from Burns, defense attorney Richard Sharpstein, who represents Velez, asked District Judge Charley Quienalty to declare a mistrial based on remarks from Burns that he said would "inflame and prejudice" the jury He also asked for a mistrial because of evidence referred to by Burns that he said was not provided to defense attorneys

Quienalty denied both motions

In his opening statement, Sharpstein cautioned jurors that they were not charged with "vindicating the criminal justice system" but to decide on evidence against suspects in Seal's murder

Sharpstein said Seal dealt with several federal agencies, including the CIA and helped White House officials obtain evidence that the Sandinista government in Nicaragua was involved in drug trafficking during one sting operation

By dealing with several government agencies, as well as in illegal smuggling activities, Seal may have caused his own death by "flying in the face of the very system that was trying to help him," Sharpstein said

"He put himself in that position, and he loved it," Sharpstein said "He thrived on it He loved the danger"

"The evidence will show you no one will ever know whether Barry Seal was dealing in drugs right up to the moment he was gunned down," he said

Attorney Robert Moore, who represents Suintero-Cruz, said his client's only crime was entering the United States illegally in early 1986.

Moore said Quintero-Cruz was charged initially with being an illegal alien and that the conspiracy and first-degree murder indictments against him are based on "some questionable identification and innocent circumstances"

Moore said both witnesses who picked the Colombian national out of police lineups had made previous false identifications of other men

Moore said Quintero-Cruz traveled across the Mexican border into the United States with two other Colombian nationals who were arrested with Quintero-Cruz in a suburb of New Orleans shortly after Seal's murder.

All three men faced immigration charges, he said

"You will find out those two gentlemen have been deported and are back home because nobody picked them out of a lineup," he said "Nobody will tell you they positively and absolutely identified my client as the man who did the shooting"

Evidence that fingerprints matching Quintero-Cruz were lifted from the interior of a getaway car connected with Seal's murder shows only that Quintero-Cruz was in the car at some time, Moore said

Moore said law enforcement officials found no prints matching Quintero-Cruz on the murder weapon — a 45-caliber Mac 10 machine gun

"It's simply a matter of arresting a Colombian," Moore said. "We submit to you that evidence will show that's why he was picked up, because he looks like one of them"

In other trial action, Quienalty denied a defense motion that the trial be delayed for 48 hours so that attorneys could research information received, Saturday on the plea agreements between state and federal prosecutors and several unindicted co-conspirators expected to testify in the trial

In a detailed motion, attorneys said information supplied by state prosecutors on the witnesses was insufficient

Monday's opening arguments followed three weeks of jury selection

Attorney Wayne Walker, who represents Vasquez, gave a short opening statement in which he said that Vasquez was born in Colombia but entered the United States in full compliance with immigration laws

"Unlike Barry Seal, he brought no dishonor to this country or his family," Walker said

Vasquez was involved in "innocent acts" that have been interpreted as guilty actions by state prosecutors, he said

Quienalty dismissed proceedings at 4 30 p m Monday He said testimony will begin at 10 a m Tuesday

FD-36 (Rev. 8-29-85)

[redacted] FBI [redacted]

TRANSMIT VIA	PRECEDENCE	CLASSIFICATION
☒ Teletype	☐ Immediate	☐ TOP SECRET
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		☐ UNCLAS E F T O
		☒ UNCLAS
		Date 5/13/87

FM NEW ORLEANS (245B-7) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (245B-76) ROUTINE 1255 / 755AM 051487

CHICAGO ROUTINE 10:18 FAX BCB

JACKSON ROUTINE 10 20 FAX BCB

MIAMI ROUTINE 10:22 FAX BCB

NEW YORK ROUTINE 10 28 FAX BCB

SAN JUAN ROUTINE 10 34 FAX BCB

BT

UNCLAS

COINROLL; AKA ET AL; ALDER B. SEAL - VICTIM (DECEASED); OCDETFI; OOJ - MURDER. OO: NEW ORLEANS.

RE NEW ORLEANS TELETYPE TO FBIHQ, JANUARY 15, 1987.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF FBIHQ AND ALL RECIPIENTS, SUBJECTS MIGUEL VELEZ, [redacted] WERE b7C FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE RELATING TO THE ASSASSINATION OF ALDER B. SEAL IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA ON FEBRUARY 19, 1986. THE VERDICT WAS REACHED FOLLOWING APPROXIMATELY

1 - New Orleans
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Approved ______ Transmitted 133/0013 Per ______
(Number) (Time)

245B-7-1165

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Searched ______
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Filed ______

[redacted]

FD-36 (Rev. 8-29-85)

FBI

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CLASSIFICATION.
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☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date ______________

PAGE TWO 145B-76 UNCLAS

SEVEN HOURS OF DELIBERATION AND THE JURY IS CURRENTLY HEARING EVIDENCE IN ORDER TO MAKE A DETERMINATION AS TO WHETHER TO IMPOSE THE DEATH PENALTY OR LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR EACH DEFENDANT, THE ONLY PENALTIES ALLOWABLE UNDER LOUISIANA STATE LAW.

THE ABOVE IS FOR THE INFORMATION OF THOSE AGENTS WHO PROVIDED TESTIMONY IN THIS MATTER.

BT

Approved ______________ Transmitted ______________ Per ______________
(Number) (Time)

OUTBOX.1 (#597)

TO: HQ1 @ EMH1

FROM: NO @ EMH1

SUBJECT: 133/0013 ROUTINE

DATE: 14 MAY 87 12:54:41 GMT

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NOO 0013 134 1255Z

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ORIGINAL

FM NEW ORLEANS (245B-7) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (245B-76) ROUTINE

CHICAGO ROUTINE

JACKSON ROUTINE

MIAMI ROUTINE

NEW YORK ROUTINE

SAN JUAN ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

COINROLL; AKA ET AL; ALDER B. SEAL - VICTIM (DECEASED); OCDETF;

OOJ - MURDER. OO: NEW ORLEANS.

RE NEW ORLEANS TELETYPE TO FBIHQ, JANUARY 15, 1987.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF FBIHQ AND ALL RECIPIENTS, SUBJECTS

MIGUEL VELEZ, [redacted] WERE b7C

FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE RELATING TO THE

ASSASSINATION OF ALDER B. SEAL IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA ON

FEBRUARY 19, 1986. THE VERDICT WAS REACHED FOLLOWING APPROXIMATELY

245B-7-1165

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Serialized
Indexed
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THE ABOVE IS FOR THE INFORMATION OF THOSE AGENTS WHO PROVIDED TESTIMONY IN THIS MATTER.

BT

------------------------END OF DOCUMENT------------------------

FD-515 (Rev 6-6-85)
ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT
(Effective 10/1/85)
(Submit within 30 days from date of accomplishment)

TO DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM SAC, NEW ORLEANS

SUBJECT.

COINROLL; aka,
ET AL;
ADLER B. SEAL - VICTIM
OCDETFI
OOJ-MURDER
OO: NEW ORLEANS

b7C

245B-76
Bureau File Number

245B-7
Field Office File Number

2232
Squad or RA Number

[redacted]
Agent's Social Security No

☒ X if a joint operation with DEA (identity of other agency)

☐ X if case involves corruption of a public official (Federal State or Local)

Date 5/26/87

Investigative Assistance or Technique Used

Were any of the investigative assistance or techniques listed below used in connection with accomplishment being claimed? ☒ No ☐ Yes If Yes rate each used as follows
1 = Used but did not help; 2 = Helped but only minimally; 3 = Helped substantially; 4 = Absolutely essential

Technique	Rating	Technique	Rating	Technique	Rating	Technique	Rating
1 Acctg Tech Assistance		8 Eng Sect Tape Exams		15 Photographic Coverage		22 Telephone Toll Recs	
2 Aircraft Assistance		9 Hypnosis Assistance		16 Polygraph Assistance		23 UCO Group I	
3 Computer Assistance		10 Ident Div Assistance		17 Search Warrants Executed		24 UCO Group II	
4 Consensual Monitoring		11 Informant Information		18 Show Money Usage		25 UC Other	
5 ELSUR FISC		12 Lab Div Exams		19 Surveil Sqd (SOG) Asst		26 NCAVC/VI CAP	
6 ELSUR Title III		13 Lab Div Field Support		20 SWAT Team Action		27 Visual Invest Analysis (VIA)	
7 Eng Sect Field Support		14 Pen Registers		21 Tech Agt or Tech Equip			

A. Preliminary Judicial Process (Number of subjects) — Complaints: ___ Informations: ___ Indictments: ___

B Arrests, Locates, Summonses or Subpoenas Served (No of Subj)

	Subject Priority* A	B	C
FBI Arrests			
FBI Locates			
Local Arrests			

FBI Subj Resisted ___ Armed ___
Subpoenas Served ___ Criminal Summons ___ Local Crim Summons ___

C Release of Hostages or Children Located (Number of Hostages or Children Located)
Hostages Held By Terrorists ___ All Other Hostage Situations ___
Missing or Kidnaped Children Located ___

D Recoveries, Restitutions, or Potential Economic Loss Prevented (PELP) (Explain valuation in remarks)

Property Type Code	Recoveries	Restitutions	PELP Type Code*	Potential Economic Loss Prevented
	$	$		$
	$	$		$
	$	$		$
	$	$		$
	$	$		$

E Civil Matters

	Government Defendant	Government Plaintiff
Amount of Suit	$	$
Settlement or Award	$	$

Enter AFA Payment Here [illegible]

F Final Judicial Process. Judicial District: LOCAL (District / State) — Conviction or Pretrial Div Date: 5/13/87 — Sentence Date: 5/21/87 — No of Subjects: Acquitted ___ Dismissed ___

Subject 1 Subject Description Code* — 3A
☒ Felony ☐ Misdemeanor ☐ Plea ☒ Trial ☐ Pretrial Diversion
Conviction: Title ___ Section ___ Counts ___
Combined Sentence: In Jail: LF; Suspended: ___; Probation: ___; Total Fines $ ___

Subject 2 Subject Description Code* — 3B
☒ Felony ☐ Misdemeanor ☐ Plea ☒ Trial ☐ Pretrial Diversion
Conviction: Title ___ Section ___ Counts ___
Combined Sentence: In Jail: LF; Suspended: ___; Probation: ___; Total Fines $ ___

Subject 3 Subject Description Code* — 3B
☒ Felony ☐ Misdemeanor ☐ Plea ☐ Trial ☐ Pretrial Diversion
Conviction: Title ___ Section ___ Counts ___
Combined Sentence: In Jail: LF; Suspended: ___; Probation: ___; Total Fines $ ___

Subject 4 Subject Description Code —
☐ Felony ☐ Misdemeanor ☐ Plea ☐ Trial ☐ Pretrial Diversion
Conviction: Title ___ Section ___ Counts ___
Combined Sentence: In Jail ___; Suspended ___; Probation ___; Total Fines $ ___

(Each Combined Sentence box: Add consecutive sentences together. Enter longest single concurrent sentence. Do not add concurrent sentences together. Sentence 10 yrs 8 yrs susp = 2 yrs In Jail)

Attach additional forms if reporting final judicial process on more than four subjects and submit a final disposition for (R-84) for each subject

b7C

Remarks (For every subject reported in Sections A, B or F above, provide name, DOB, race*, sex and POB and SSAN if available.)

Subjects [redacted] white male, DOB [redacted] white male, DOB [redacted] and MIGUEL VELEZ, white male, DOB 6/7/49, all Colombian Nationals, convicted on 5/13/87, following jury trial each for first degree murder. Each defendant sentenced on 5/21/87, to life imprisonment without benefit of parole or probation.

Subjects tried in state court for capital offense following assassination of ADLER B. SEAL on 2/19/86. Evidence developed solely through FBI investigation.

#8 Roark
b7C

245B-7-1170
Searched ___ Serialized [illegible] Indexed ___ Filed [illegible]

2 Bureau
4 X Field Office (1 - 245B-7)(1 - Stats in Process)(1 - SA [redacted] personal folder)
(1 - SA [redacted] Info)
* See codes on reverse side
JLP:rwc (6)

FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) A-1, A-13
"MORNING ADVOCATE"
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Date 5/15/87
Edition Morning

Title MIGUEL VELEZ, aka EL AL;ADLER B. SEAL - VICTIM

Character or Classification 245B-7
OCDE TASK FORCE INV.

Submitting Office New Orleans

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Life terms meted in Seal death

By JOHN SEMIEN
Advocate staff writer

LAKE CHARLES — Jurors here deliberated only 20 minutes Thursday before deciding to spare the lives of three Colombians they convicted of the 1986 murder of Adler "Barry" Seal

They voted to sentence Miguel Velez, Bernardo Antonio Vasquez and Luis Carlos Quintero-Cruz to life in prison without benefit of pardon, probation or parole, despite a final plea from the prosecution for the death penalty

The verdict was delivered to District Judge Charley Quienalty at 4 50 p m The panel of 10 women and two men began their deliberations at 4 30 p m , after hearing closing arguments from attorneys

The jury's decision caused Velez to double over with emotion as he, Vasquez and Quintero-Cruz faced the jury to receive their verdict

Several jurors wept as Quienalty ordered the panel back into chambers for a final word of congratulations

After the verdict, attorney Wayne Walker, who represents Vasquez, flashed a tired smile

"It's a small consolation, but I'm pleased with it," Walker said "It sure beats the alternative"

The three men, who have been on trial here since April 6, faced possible death in Louisiana's electric chair after being convicted Wednesday of first-degree murder

Assistant District Attorney Prem Burns, who argued for the death penalty, said she had mixed feelings about the verdict Wednesday afternoon

"I respect their decision," she said "I would have liked to have had it, but I basically feel it was because of the victim"

Both Burns and defense attorneys agreed Seal's criminal past as a cocaine smuggler played a part in the jury's swing toward mercy for his convicted assassins

In court records, Seal admitted making millions to fly massive loads of cocaine into the United States from clandestine airstrips in Central and South America before being indicted on drug charges

He subsequently become a DEA informant in 1984 in an attempt to stay out of prison at the expense of his former employers

State prosecutors said Seal was "marked for death" later that year when Colombian drug czars placed a $500,000 contract on his life for testifying against them in Florida drug

SEE TRIAL, 13A

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FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state) A-1, A-13
"MORNING ADVOCATE"
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Date 5/15/87
Edition

Title MIGUEL VELEZ, aka ET AL: ADLER B. SEAL-VICTIM

Character or Classification OCDE TASK FORCE INV. 245B-7

Submitting Office New Orleans

Trial

CONTINUED FROM 1A

cases

In her closing statement Wednesday, Burns urged jurors to consider the message drug traffickers of Colombia's Medellin cocaine cartel were sending with Seal's murder

"This was used to teach a lesson, gangland style," she said brandishing a machine gun used in the murder "Back in the 1920's, people would machine-gun informants to death in the streets They knew it would be a deterrent to people who might turn against this cartel in the future

"With a machine gun, they were the jury, the judge and the executioner and they did it for a few thousand dollars," Burns said about the defendants "Cold, hard cash."

State prosecutors had asked the jury to consider the contract on Seal's life as one of the aggravating factors warranting the death penalty for Vasquez, Velez and Quintero-Cruz

Defense attorneys argued Wednesday that life in prison was a more lasting deterrent

"Each day, his life is a deterrent, he becomes painfully aware of why he is being punished," Walker said about inmates serving life sentences

"When there is an execution at the prison, it's a deterrent, but it doesn't last very long," Walker said "How many of you remember the name of the last person to die in the electric chair?"

Walker reminded the jury that Vasquez had no criminal history and said his character "is beyond reproach as compared to the character of the victim in this case"

Attorney Robert Moore, who represents Quintero-Cruz, reminded the jurors that they were allowed unlimited mercy under the law and were not bound to return the death penalty under any circumstances

He invited the jury to take a photograph of Quintero-Cruz's wife and three children living in Colombia into their deliberations

"It's the only thing he has in this world now that makes life worth living," Moore said about the alleged trigger man

"It's important for that baby boy to grow up knowing he has a father," Moore said, pointing to the photo "It's important for that little girl to know her father is alive, somewhere"

Seal, Moore said, was no "innocent victim" as a child or elderly person who becomes the victim of first-degree murder

Attorney Richard Sharpstein, who represents Velez, urged the jury to "forgive him his trespasses" as the alleged driver of a getaway car in Seal's murder

"Lock him up, throw away the key, but don't kill him," Sharpstein said "This is not a case that cries out for the violent vengeance of death in the electric chair"

Thursday's final session was delayed by private conferences between attorneys and Quienalty over a defense motion that the judge sealed from public access

Quienalty also refused requests from reporters covering the trial concerning the minutes of bench conferences on the motion held in open court

Attorney Anthony Marabella, who represents Quintero-Cruz, said Quienalty barred attorneys from discussing the motion publicly over their objections

"A motion will be filed in the next couple of days that will explain what has been sealed," he said

On the outer steps of the Lake Charles federal building housing the trial, Sharpstein said all three defendants plan to appeal their first-degree murder convictions

"We still feel we have a very strong case on the guilt phase," he said "Our clients are relieved that they won't be sitting on death row while we're appealing"

Quienalty said Velez, Vasquez and Quintero-Cruz will be sentenced at 1 30 p m May 21 in state District Court here

Seal died in a hail of machine-gun fire as he exited his Cadillac in the parking lot of the Salvation Army Community Treatment Center in Baton Rouge on the evening of Feb 19, 1986

He had been serving a six-month probation sentence at a federal halfway house there on drug charges

A January trial on Seal's murder was ordered transferred from Baton Rouge to Calcasieu Parish by District Judge Frank Saia, who found it impossible to seat an impartial jury in Baton Rouge.

The trial here was first assigned to the Sulphur Judicial Center — a converted Catholic Church

It was reassigned to a courtroom in the federal building here for security reasons

FD 350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

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"MORNING ADVOCATE"
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

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Life terms meted in Seal death

By JOHN SEMIEN
Advocate staff writer

LAKE CHARLES — Jurors here deliberated only 20 minutes Thursday before deciding to spare the lives of three Colombians they convicted of the 1986 murder of Adler "Barry" Seal.

They voted to sentence Miguel Velez, Bernardo Antonio Vasquez and Luis Carlos Quintero-Cruz to life in prison without benefit of pardon, probation or parole, despite a final plea from the prosecution for the death penalty

The verdict was delivered to District Judge Charley Quienalty at 4 50 p m The panel of 10 women and two men began their deliberations at 4 30 p m, after hearing closing arguments from attorneys

The jury's decision caused Velez to double over with emotion as he, Vasquez and Quintero-Cruz faced the jury to receive their verdict

Several jurors wept as Quienalty ordered the panel back into chambers for a final word of congratulations.

After the verdict, attorney Wayne Walker, who represents Vasquez, flashed a tired smile

"It's a small consolation, but I'm pleased with it," Walker said "It sure beats the alternative"

The three men, who have been on trial here since April 6, faced possible death in Louisiana's electric chair after being convicted Wednesday of first-degree murder.

Assistant District Attorney Prem Burns, who argued for the death penalty, said she had mixed feelings about the verdict Wednesday afternoon

"I respect their decision," she said "I would have liked to have had it, but I basically feel it was because of the victim"

Both Burns and defense attorneys agreed Seal's criminal past as a cocaine smuggler played a part in the jury's swing toward mercy for his convicted assassins

In court records, Seal admitted making millions to fly massive loads of cocaine into the United States from clandestine airstrips in Central and South America before being indicted on drug charges

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"TIMES-PICAYUNE/STATES-ITEM"

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List of jurors kept secret in drug informant slay case

By The Associated Press

BATON ROUGE — An appeals court has upheld the decision to keep secret the list of potential jurors for the trial of four men charged with murdering drug informant Barry Seal

The 1st Circuit Court of Appeal said withholding the information would not hamper jury selection for the trial next month

The defendants face charges of conspiracy and first-degree murder in Seal's death, which state prosecutors called a contract killing ordered by powerful Colombian cocaine traffickers

District Judge Frank Saia agreed to keep potential jurors' names and addresses secret after Assistant District Attorney Prem Burns cited alleged links between Seal's death and the Medellin cartel, a powerful Colombian trafficking ring

Burns also noted that pre-trial hearings have had bullet-proof shields and armed guards, which he said had a "chilling effect"

Michele Fournet, lawyer for Jose Renteria-Campo, appealed the decision, calling the extra security unnecessary and potentially intimidating to jurors

Fournet said allegations of links between Seal's murder and a drug-trafficking cartel are totally unsubstantiated

Her appeal was joined by attorneys for the other defendants, Miguel Velez, Bernardo Antonio Vasquez and Luis Carlos Quintero-Cruz

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